

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, February 10, 2006*

## ID OFFICERS WHO APPREHENDED JUVENILE ROBBERY SUSPECT ARE AMONG THE “CHAMPS” OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

First District Officer Justin Branson was on mountain bike patrol in PSA 104 when he stopped in the 200 block of N Street, SW, to see if he could observe any drug activity on security cameras located in a security booth. Officer Branson saw a group of juveniles in a rear playground area rolling what appeared to be a marijuana cigarette. Officer Branson radioed for Officer Peter Trifu to assist him. As both officers converged on the scene simultaneously, they saw one of the juveniles toss a rolled marijuana cigarette to the ground. Officer Branson quickly recovered the marijuana cigarette and began to question the juvenile. While questioning him, the juvenile became increasingly nervous and vague in his responses. Officer Trifu, recalling a lookout given the previous night for an armed robbery that occurred only blocks away, alerted Officer Branson to the similarities between the robbery suspect and the juvenile they were questioning. Officer Branson then noticed the youth's coat to be hanging lower to the right side, as if a heavy object were in the pocket. A protective pat-down revealed the youth had a .22 caliber pistol in his coat pocket. A search incident to arrest also uncovered a Nextel Blackberry cell phone, which was taken in the previous night's robbery. The juvenile was placed under arrest and charged with carrying a pistol without a license, receiving stolen property, and possession of marijuana. For their ingenuity and teamwork in apprehending an armed robbery suspect, Officers Branson and Trifu were among 14 officers honored during the February CHAMPS Awards luncheon.

① Read about all of the officers' actions at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,559100,mpdcNav\\_GID,1544.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,559100,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp)

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The February awards luncheon was hosted by the Holiday Inn on the Hill, in Northwest.

① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,\\_.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,_.asp)

## NEARLY 20 MPDC VEHICLES UP FOR AUCTION

The District of Columbia now auctions its surplus property online through Liquidation.com, a Liquidity Services, Inc. marketplace. This includes vehicles that are seized or impounded by the MPDC. Approximately 20 such vehicles, including some higher-end luxury vehicles, are now up for auction on the Liquidation.com website. The closing dates for the auctioned vehicles are upcoming, with a public inspection date of Tuesday, February 14. Recently, the District awarded the contract for the management of the inventory, appraisal, sale and shipping of the city's surplus property to Liquidity Services Inc. LSI conducts auctions of city assets such as vehicles, automobile accessories, computer equipment, radios and other communications equipment, office furniture and other supplies through its online marketplace. The online auctions are designed to improve data tracking and financial oversight of the city's surplus asset disposition activities. All property offered for sale is “as is,” “where is” and without recourse against the Government of the District of Columbia.

① For more information, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,558351,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,\\_.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,558351,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,_.asp)

## DC UNVEILS NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION RESOURCES

As part of National Consumer Protection Week, District officials this past week announced they are focusing on educating and empowering DC consumers in the fight against fraud, including the launch of a new "Consumer Corner" website. The effort is being spearheaded by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and the Office of the Attorney General, with support from other agencies including the MPDC. According to a survey by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), nearly 25 million Americans – 11.2 percent of the adult population – experience consumer fraud each year. In an annual report detailing consumer complaints about fraud and identity theft in 2005, the FTC named DC on its list of major metropolitan areas with the highest per-capita rates of consumer fraud. As part of DCRA's FY 2006 budget, the DC Council approved funding for an Office of Consumer Protection. The office will focus on education, mediation and enforcement, primarily in the areas of home improvement and car repair. DCRA has rolled out a web-enabled business license verification system that allows consumers to check to see if local rental properties, auto repair shops and home improvement contractors have the necessary licenses to do business in DC. In the past year alone, the AG's Office has successfully recovered more than \$500,000 in consumer restitution from its consumer protection and antitrust enforcement actions, and has handled approximately 650 consumer inquiries and complaints.

## CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCED BY MPDC

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for various civilian positions within the agency. New openings include the following: a Compliance Monitor in the Office of Professional Responsibility (DS-1801-11), a Contract Compliance Monitor in the Contract Monitoring Unit (DS-1801-12), and a Program Control Officer in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (MS-301-15). The Department also continues to seek candidates for part-time Crossing Guard positions. The closing dates for the new positions are either February 16 or 17. Salaries, tours of duty and other elements of the jobs vary. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Child Safety Seat Inspections.** The MPDC, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Fire and EMS Department and DC Safe Kids are observing Child Passenger Safety Week by offering free inspections of child passenger car seats from February 13-18 at various locations throughout the city. Details at [http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,634868,ddotNav\\_GID,1610.asp](http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,634868,ddotNav_GID,1610.asp).

**Join Your Police District Listserv.** Each police district now has a listserv dedicated to community policing and public safety issues. To find out what police district you live in, and to access your community's listserv, go to the following page, then click on the appropriate police district [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,Q,543336,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,Q,543336,mpdcNav_GID,1523,asp)

**Presidents' Day Schedule.** Administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2006, in observance of Presidents' Day. Neighborhood patrols and other essential functions of the Department will be staffed on that date.

- ① Read the full news release at:  
<http://www.dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=838&mon=200602>
- ① The Financial Crime and Fraud Unit spearheads the MPDC's consumer protection efforts. For information and resources, visit:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,543154,mpdcNav\\_GID,1547.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,543154,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp)
- ① DCRA's new online verification system, consumer protection tips and guidelines can be found at:  
<http://www.dcrdc.gov/dcrdc/cwp/view,a,1343,q,635148.asp>
- ① Consumers who think they've been treated unfairly by a business can call DC's Consumer Protection Hotline at (202) 442-9828.

- ① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>
- ① For information about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC – including recruit and lateral-hire officers – go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538009.asp>

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 2/10/06
◆ 2006: 19	
◆ 2005: 16	
◆ % Change: +18.7%	
◆ Closure Rate: 52.6% (10 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 2/4/06
◆ Total: 960	
◆ Weapons: 41	
◆ Robbery: 4	
◆ Auto Theft: 16	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 35	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 2/4/06
◆ Arrests: 58	
◆ Curfew Violations: 47	
◆ Truants: 55	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 2/8/06
◆ February: 38	
◆ January: 248	
◆ 2006 Total: 286	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 2/10/06
◆ 2005: 7	
◆ 2004: 6	
◆ % Change: +16.7%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**